

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00846 011534Z

ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2381

S E C R E T PRAGUE 0846

NODIS

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: MNUC, PFOR

SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL NUCLEAR POLICY STATEMENT

REF: STATE 067973 TOSEC 030017

1. SUMMARY. I DELIVERED PRESIDENT CARTER'S MESSAGE ON NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION TO CZECHOSLOVAK PREMIER LUBOMIR STROUGAL ON APRIL 1, BOTH ORALLY AND IN WRITING, AS INSTRUCTED IN REFTEL. STROUGAL EVINCED SOME SUSPICIOUSNESS AT FIRST, AND ASKED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, WHETHER U.S. MIGHT HAVE DEVELOPED A NEW NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY, A QUESTION I DID NOT DIRECTLY ANSWER. HE THEN ENGAGED ME IN DISCUSSION OF SEVERAL ISSUES WHICH I SUGGESTED MIGHT FITTINGLY BE RAISED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S RESPONSE TO THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE. STROUGAL AGREED TO KEEP THE MATTER CONFIDENTIAL, IN RETURN FOR WHICH HE HOPED USG WOULD NOT REVEAL THAT IT HAD CONSULTED WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA WITHOUT FIRST WARNING GOC. END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER SOME DELAY IN ARRANGING APPOINTMENT, I CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER EARLY APRIL 1. STROUGAL STARED FIXEDLY AT ME AS I READ CONTENTS OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S MESSAGE (REFTEL). AFTER THANKING ME, HE

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STRESSED SERIOUSNESS OF ISSUES ADDRESSED IN MESSAGE, SAYING THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA ALSO RECOGNIZED THE PROBLEM OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND SHARED THE OBJECTIVE OF CONTROLLING IT. STROUGAL INQUIRED AS TO POSSIBLE MOTIVES BEHIND THE MESSAGE, ASKING SPECIFICALLY WHETHER A NEW NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY MIGHT HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED BY THE U.S. (PRESUMABLY

TECHNOLOGY THAT WOULD BYPASS BREEDER REACTORS AND PLUTONIUM RECYCLES). I SAID I WAS NOT AN EXPERT IN NUCLEAR FIELD, BUT THAT THE PRESIDENT, WHO IS, IS DEEPLY CONCERNED WITH THE PROBLEM OF PROLIFERATION AND ALSO WITH THE QUESTION OF WORLD ENERGY RESOURCES. IN CHARTING A DOMESTIC ENERGY POLICY FOR THE U.S., I CONTINUED, THE PRESIDENT WANTED TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE VIEWS OF A LIMITED NUMBER OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S.

3. STROUGAL ASKED TWO QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE LONDON CLUB OF NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS, WHICH HE SAID IS TO MEET IN APRIL: 1) WOULD THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE LONDON CLUB BE PRESENTING PRESIDENT CARTER'S PROGRAM? (I EXPRESSED THE PERSONAL OPINION THAT IT MIGHT WELL BE DISCUSSED, BUT THAT I DID NOT KNOW SO FOR A FACT.); 2) GIVEN THAT BREEDER REACTORS PRESENTLY EXIST AND WILL PRESUMABLY CONTINUE TO BE BUILT, HOW DOES THE U.S. PLAN TO DEAL REALISTICALLY WITH THE PROBLEMS OF PLUTONIUM EXPORTS? AGAIN, I SUGGESTED THAT THIS CONCERN MIGHT PROPERLY BE RAISED IN A GOC RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S MESSAGE.

4. STROUGAL AGREED TO RESPECT CONFIDENTIALITY OF OUR MEETING. BUT HE STRESSED THAT HE WOULD BE MOST UNHAPPY SHOULD THE USG ANNOUNCE, WITHOUT GIVING ADEQUATE ADVANCE NOTICE, THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAD BEEN CONSULTED, ALLEGEDLY SO THAT ITS PEOPLE COULD BE SECRET

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ALERTED TO THE DISCUSSIONS. I AGREED TO REPORT THIS CONCERN, AND SUGGESTED FURTHERMORE THAT GOC MAKE IT A PART OF ITS RESPONSE.

5. JOKINGLY, STROUGAL SAID HE COULD NOT PROVIDE A RESPONSE ON APRIL FOOLS' DAY, BUT HE INTIMATED IT WOULD BE FORTHCOMING SOON.

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Sent Date: 01-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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